

TRIP REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE US-USSR WORKING GROUP
ON PREVENTION AND CLEANUP OF POLLUTION OF THE MARINE
ENVIRONMENT FROM SHIPPING

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The Joint US-USSR Working Group on Prevention and Cleanup of Pollution of the Marine Environment from Shipping met in the USSR from 30 November to 15 December 1974. The purpose of this meeting was to continue discussions and exchange information in the areas of marine pollution previously agreed to be of mutual concern, to examine various Soviet marine pollution control facilities and equipment, and to discuss future initiatives to be undertaken by the Working Group either jointly or cooperatively.

ITINERARY

The U.S. delegation arrived in Moscow at 1320 on 30 November 1974, and was met at the airport by Anatoly Andreev, Deputy Head of Foreign Relations Department, Ministry of the Merchant Marine, Aleks Morozov, Deputy Head of Science and Technology Department, Ministry of the Merchant Marine, Dr. Eugeny Merzlov, Technical Director of the Southern Shipping Company "Juhzflot," Viktor Tysjachnikov, Senior Engineer at Ministry of Merchant Marine, and Pavel Morozov of the Protocol Department, Ministry of Merchant Marine. The entire group went to the Hotel Rossiya, where the U.S. delegation checked in and immediately attended an informal reception. The next morning, the U.S. delegation departed for Batumi accompanied by V. Tysjachnikov, P. Morozov, Genaadi Semanov, Research Associate at the Central Scientific Research Institute of the Ministry of Merchant Marine, and Yuri Rudichenko, interpreter and engineer, and were met in Batumi by Platon Ivanovich Djorbinadze, the Chief Engineer of the Georgian Shipping Company, the host of the U.S. delegation in Batumi.

During the five day stay at Batumi, the U.S. delegation met for discussions with officials of the Georgian Shipping Company on the composition of the Shipping Company, its position in the structure of the Ministry of the Merchant Marine, pollution abatement authority, procedures, enforcement, and port rules; the Working Group held two working sessions to define and discuss objectives to be accomplished at this meeting and toured the oily waste reception and treatment facility, the Port of Batumi and a 5,000 dwt tanker. The group was joined in Batumi by Sergey Nunuparov, head of the Black Sea Central Design Bureau, who is the USSR Co-Chairman of the Working Group, and Eugeny Merzlov, Technical Director of Southern Shipping Company - "Juhzflot."

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On 5 December, the Group boarded the M/V "Admiral Nachimov," a passenger cruise ship of the Black Sea Shipping Company. After a banquet in celebration of Constitution Day, the ship departed for the port of Sukhumi, an overnight voyage. Upon docking at Sukhumi on the morning of 6 December, the Working Group split, with half remaining on board to prepare a report and Memorandum of Implementation for the Joint Committee Meeting to be held in Moscow 9-12 December; the other members of the Working Group, taking a day trip to the port of Sochi, returned to the ship that evening. 7 December was spent on board with the members of the Working Group pairing off for discussions according to speciality; after an official dinner hosted by officials of the Port of Sukhumi, the ship departed for the port of Novorossiysk. The ship docked at Novorossiysk on the morning of 8 December; at this point Captain Wallace, S. Nunuparov, and Y. Merzlov departed for Moscow, Captain Wallace to represent the area of Marine Pollution at the Joint Committee Meeting on the US-USSR Environmental Agreement. The remainder of the Working Group visited the oily waste reception facility and port facilities of Novorossiysk. The group departed for Riga after a lunch hosted by Leonid Kryshtin, Chief Engineer of the Novorossiysk Shipping Company. Arriving in Riga late at night, the delegation checked into the Hotel Riga.

The morning of 9 December was spent in discussions with authorities from the Port of Riga and the Latvian Shipping Company, followed by a tour of the port facilities and a luncheon hosted by the Chief Engineer of the Latvian Shipping Company.

That evening the group boarded a night train to Leningrad, arriving the morning of 10 December. After checking into the Hotel Astoria, the delegation spent the day at the Merchant Marine Central Research Institute; Y. Panin, the Director of the Institute, welcomed the U. S. delegation and provided background information on the Institute and its missions. Three papers were presented by Y. Miroshnichenko, Department Manager, G. Semanov, Scientific Advisor, and A. Jakushenkov, Manager of the Division of Safety and Navigation, on construction of tankers to prevent pollution, chemical dispersant efficiency and vessel traffic safety. The next day, the group met for discussions with officials of the Baltic Shipping Company, headed by Mr. E. Blinov, Technical Manager. A tour of the Port of Leningrad followed, with lunch aboard a containerized cargo carrier of the Baltic Shipping Company. That evening the Working Group departed for Moscow aboard a night train, arriving the morning of 12 December.

The remaining days of the meeting were spent in Moscow, with the U. S. delegation housed in the Hotel Rossiya.

On 12 December, the Joint Committee meeting was concluded and Captain Wallace rejoined the Working Group. Negotiations continued on the work program for 1975 and were finalized in the Minutes of Agreement signed on 13 December by the Working Group Co-Chairmen, S. Nunuparov for the Soviet side and Commander J. Sipes for the U. S. (See attachment 1).

JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING

Coincident with the second week of the Working Group session, the third meeting of the US-USSR Joint Committee on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection (the administrative overseer of the broad Agreement) was held in Moscow, USSR, from 9 - 12 December 1974; the Co-Chairmen of the Committee are the Honorable Russell E. Train for the U. S. and Academician Y. A. Izrael for the USSR. The purpose of the meeting was to review progress made under the Memorandum of Implementation signed at the second meeting of the Joint Committee in Washington on 16 November 1973, and to adopt a Memorandum of Implementation for 1975 setting forth the program of cooperation for the coming year. Captain Wallace attended the Joint Committee meeting to represent the area of marine pollution, including the projects on Prevention and Cleanup of Pollution of the Marine Environment from Shipping, Prevention of Environmental Pollution during Well Drilling, Production and Pipeline Transportation of Oil and Gas (now under the US-USSR Energy Agreement), and Effect of Pollutants on Marine Organisms.

The Prevention and Cleanup of Pollution of Marine Environment from Shipping portions of the Report and Memorandum to be adopted by the Joint Committee were discussed extensively by Captain Wallace, S. Nunuparov and Y. Merzlov during the first week of the Working Group session; after coordinating with the USSR Project Leader, V. Kh. Dubchak, the resulting drafts were adopted readily by the Joint Committee with a few editorial changes. (Enclosures 1 and 2.)

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Three official banquets were hosted in honor of the U. S. delegation to the Working Group; perhaps the most elaborate was the Constitution Day banquet held aboard the M/V "Admiral Nachimov" on 5 December while in the Port of Batumi; the other two banquets were hosted by V. Agafonov, the Chief Engineer of the Latvian Shipping Company at Riga; and by Y. Panin, Director of the Merchant Marine Central Research Institute at Leningrad. The majority of the remaining meals, as with the previous Working Group meeting in the USSR, while not official banquets, were elaborate lengthy dinners.

Cultural activities included visits to an aquarium, the Batumi Botanical Gardens, and a Museum of the culture of Agaria, the republic of which Batumi is capital, the Hermitage in Leningrad, the circus at Moscow and the monastery in Zagorsk. Sightseeing included a visit to the resort town of Sochi, involving a seven-hour bus ride along the Black Sea coast, and brief tours of the cities of Norovossiysk, Riga, and Leningrad.

NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE PROGRAM

Negotiations for the development of a Protocol for this meeting of the Working Group, although lengthy, proceeded quite smoothly; in contrast to previous negotiations, the Soviet side was very forthcoming with proposed drafts, and any disagreements with U. S. proposals were mere misunderstandings which were readily resolved. Discussions began based on a draft prepared by the U. S. delegation prior to departure for the USSR. The Soviet delegation submitted their proposed draft soon after the session began. After consideration of both drafts, the U.S. delegation submitted a second draft Protocol; discussions on this draft resulted in a second Soviet draft Protocol which was used as the basis of negotiations resulting in the final Minutes of Agreement.

In addition to the development of comprehensive programs for joint evaluation of chemical dispersing and collecting agents, and oil containment and recovery devices, highlights of the negotiations are as follows:

In view of the prospective coming into force of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, it was agreed to broaden the scope of the Project from oil pollution to marine pollution in general.

Recognizing that certain initiatives of the Working Group lie outside the activities of the USSR Ministry of the Merchant Marine, the Soviet side is undertaking an effort within the Soviet bureaucracy to provide for the participation of other appropriate Soviet ministries, such as the Ministry of Public Health (laboratory analysis), Ministry of Environment (standard setting), Ministry of Amelioration (cleanup techniques) and the Ministry of the Inland Fleet.

Forms of cooperation between the U. S. and Soviet sides, formerly limited to exchanges of information and specialists, will be expanded to include the publication of joint papers both within the framework of IMCO and in professional journals; exchanges related to oil containment and recovery devices will culminate in an exchange of the devices themselves for purposes of evaluation.

Recognizing the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) as the focal point of international concern on marine pollution, it was agreed that the results of all joint and cooperative initiatives of the Working Group should be reported to IMCO for further distribution.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

It was the consensus of the U. S. delegation that this third meeting of the Working Group was by far the most productive and satisfactory. It appears at this point of time, the mid-point of the five year agreement on environmental cooperation, it will be possible to shift the concentration of energy from laying the groundwork for exchanges and joint/cooperative efforts to participation in the efforts themselves.

A certain amount of anxiety was experienced by the U.S. delegation prior to departure for the USSR as the usual delay in communications resulted in visas being received only the morning of departure for the USSR; this feeling of tension persisted for the first few days of the visit, fertilized by the somewhat overbearing manner of our host in Batumi who insisted on prolonging our visit (from two to five days), subjecting the group to an exhausting schedule of social activities. This resulted in a deep concern for the work program of the group. Once out of Batumi, however, the feeling of strain dissipated, and the meeting proceeded comfortably in spite of a very busy itinerary. A healthy rapport has been established between both delegations of the Working Group, with the feelings of genuine one-to-one friendship evident and very beneficial in negotiations.

The simultaneous meeting of the Joint Committee with the strong support Mr. Train expressed for the Marine Pollution from Shipping Project was also considered to have been of great help to the Working Group; it was possible to settle certain issues requiring Joint Committee approval immediately rather than postponing them to the next meeting of the Working Group. It may be desirable to consider such coincident timing for future meetings of the Working Group as well.

The provision for a U.S. interpreter was invaluable in terms of the negotiations themselves and the encounters with local Soviet hosts, and contributed greatly to the relatively relaxed feeling of the U.S. delegation as contrasted with that experienced during the last meeting in the USSR.

The next meeting of the full Working Group has been slated for the third or fourth quarter of 1975, with details to be arranged by correspondence between Project Leaders. Interest has been expressed by several members of the USSR delegation to include New York on the itinerary.


J. D. SIPES